(b) whether Indian Railways are aware of imminent threat of poaching of its senior level managers by private players; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Railways to protect its senior level officers from being lured away by private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. In the current year, only one player applied for container train business and it is also not necessarily correct that private players require senior level personnel with experience in Railway's operations and logistics.

(b) There does not appear to be any imminent threat.

(c) The Railways are a robust organization with the best management practices that adequately cater to the professional aspirations and personal comforts of its employees.

Vacancies in Railways

550. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacancies in Railways, zone-wise; and

(b) the action taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The approximate vacancies on zonal railways for Group 'C' & 'D' as on 31.12.2006 are:

Central	11537	Eastern	11659
East Coast	8228	East Central	13663
Northern	17829	North Central	8035
North Eastern	2845	Northeast Frontier	8475
North Western	7283	Southern	8599
South Central	10064	South Eastern	12296
South East Central	8839	South Western	6094
Western	15172	West Central	7529

(b) Action for filling of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies are filled primarily through open market recruitment, which is done through Railway Recruitment Boards or by the Zonal Railways themselves. Other vacancies in the promotional grade are however filled through departmental promotions.

Surplus Railway land-bank

551. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has constituted a surplus land-bank subsidiary to manage and develop its surplus land;

(b) to what extent the Railways proposes to utilize the surplus land for captive expansion and commercialization; and

(c) whether goods sheds and sidings lying idle are being leased out to private parties for freight handling and warehousing, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Railways have, however, set up Rail Land Development Authority to undertake all tasks connected with commercial development. The Authority has become functional from 19.1.2007.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The land not needed by Railway for future foreseeable use, will be put to commercial use by the Authority. A policy document for leasing out spare-able Railway land for the development of multimodel logistic parks/rail-side warehouses/stockyards and terminals for handling container trains by private investors is under consideration.

Extension and modernisation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Station

552. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Maharashtra dated 19th September, 2003 had in a communication written to the Union Railway Minister that 20 acres of land exists near the CST railway station and this land should be developed for new terminal on BOT basis;